



**County Council  
of  
Baltimore County**

Court House  
Towson, Maryland 21204

410-887-3196  
Fax: 410-887-5791

**Tom Quirk**  
FIRST DISTRICT

**Izzy Patoka**  
SECOND DISTRICT

**Wade Kach**  
THIRD DISTRICT

**Julian E. Jones, Jr.**  
FOURTH DISTRICT

**David Marks**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

**Cathy Bevins**  
SIXTH DISTRICT

**Todd K. Crandell**  
SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Thomas H. Bostwick**  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
SECRETARY

March 15, 2019

**VIA EMAIL/U.S MAIL**

The Honorable Kathleen Causey, Chair  
Board of Education of Baltimore County  
6901 N. Charles Street  
Towson, Maryland 21204

**RE: External Audit of BCPS Purchasing Practices**

Dear Chairwoman Causey and Members of the Board:

We are writing to request the timely release to the public of the external audit of BCPS purchasing practices and expenditures performed by the firm UHY. This firm was hired by the Board of Education in May of last year at a reported cost to taxpayers of over \$400,000. On January 18, 2019 the Board received a draft audit.

The purpose of the audit was to restore the public's confidence in the school system and to ensure that the Board and BCPS are spending taxpayer dollars appropriately and efficiently. From January 18 until yesterday, the Board gave no indication of when it plans to release the final audit. In that time, all stakeholders, community leaders, elected officials, and others have repeatedly called for the release of the audit, or, at minimum, a timeline for release.

Yesterday, after consecutive days of statewide press scrutiny, the Board issued a statement that the audit would be issued in "upcoming weeks, not months." While the Board may have legitimate reasons for the month's long delay, its silence has done nothing to dispel the public's concerns.

It is understandable why the Board, with seven new members and an interim superintendent, would wish to speak cautiously about the audit. We share the Board's interest and passion in delivering efficient, fair, and effective education to all BCPS students. We believe this audit is a positive step toward achieving the best possible education system. We therefore again respectfully request the timely release to the public of the external audit performed by UHY so that all eyes can review the document and have input in determining what, if any, changes need to be made to BCPS purchasing practices going forward.

Sincerely,

Tom Quirk, Chairman

Izzy Patoka Councilman

Julian E. Jones, Jr., Councilman

David Marks, Councilman

Cathy Bevins, Councilwoman

Todd K. Crandell, Councilman

CC:clb